

HOUSE RESOLUTION 152

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Velma Lois Jones,
recipient of the 2014 Living Legacy Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy Tennessean is Velma Lois Jones of Memphis who has served her community, state, and nation in manifold ways and, indeed, she has been genuinely impactful in each of those venues; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2014, Ms. Jones will be presented this year's Living Legacy Award by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and Farmers Insurance at the 88th Annual Black History Month Luncheon in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the core of this astonishing woman's very being is her faith in God and commitment to serve others, which she has fortified and honed over the years of her lifetime membership at Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, where she has led and aided in every aspect of church life; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones is a superbly trained and highly experienced educator, and she has successfully plied her skills in both classrooms and in the advocacy arena throughout the journey of her career; and

WHEREAS, elected as the first black classroom teacher president of the Tennessee Education Association, Ms. Jones is the longest serving president in that esteemed organization's history, and she has served in top and varied leadership positions in its local and regional affiliates, Memphis and West Tennessee Education Associations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones has served on the board of trustees of the National Education Association. For 12 years, she was a hardworking, energetic member of the LeMoyne-Owen Board of Trustees and has been named Parliamentarian after having been the longest serving National Alumni President in that organization's history; and

WHEREAS, she holds charter membership in the Memphis Chapter of Justice, Unity, Generosity, Service (JUGS), Inc.; the Coalition of 100 Black Women; Girlfriends, Inc.; Dollars and Sense Investment Club; Phi Lambda Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Emanons' (Health, Rest, and Relax) Club; and Chapter 15 of the American Institute of Parliamentarians; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones has worked in every major political campaign since the election of John F. Kennedy; she served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1992, 1996, and 2000; and

WHEREAS, she was the first of only two women ever elected to lead the Memphis Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and she participated in the marches, boycotts, and picketing during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Now, even in retirement, she continues to be active in this organization as well as volunteering for health, education, and environmental issues in her community that need attention; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones has been recognized and well rewarded for her efforts; she received President Obama's 2012 Drum Major for Service Award from the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Women's Foundation for Greater Memphis 2012 Legends Award, the 2012 Church Women United Valiant Woman Award, and an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Humane Letters from her alma mater, LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, Velma Lois Jones is an extraordinary citizen and a consummate Tennessean, and she has won the unbridled respect and admiration of colleagues, cohorts, and community-minded people of Memphis, Tennessee, and this entire nation; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and timely that this legislative body salute Ms. Jones for her lifetime of work that has supported the advancement of all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize Velma Lois Jones as the 2014 Living Legacy Award recipient. We honor her lifelong work to advance education and opportunity for all Tennesseans, and we extend to her our best wishes for continued success in all her endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.